

AGRICULTURAL SPECULATIONS.



The following interesting Essay was communicated by Professor MITCHELL, of our University, to JAMES MEBANE, Esq. one of the Members of the North-Carolina Agricultural Society, in the year 1822, accompanied by the annexed Note : and is now published by order of the Board of Agriculture :



CHAPEL-HILL, Dec. 26, 1822.

DEAR SIR,

The within is not mere theory. In the early part of my life I was engaged in the business of Agriculture, and have since been fond of observing and speculating on the subject, and I place rather more confidence in my own opinions in relation to these things, from the circumstance that on reading Taylor's *ARATOR*. I found that many of the rules there laid down, are such as I had determined in my own mind to be good ones long before I knew they were to be found in his book. I think it desirable that a number of papers should be presented to the Agricultural Society every year, even though some of them should not be very good ones, and written by men not very competent to the task. It will keep a spirit of improvement alive. Should there be a scarcity of such papers, you will please present the within. Should there be a plenty, you will please keep it for your own particular use, benefit and behoof.

Your obedient servant,

E. MITCHELL.

Mr. MEBANE.



It has long been the practice of the French Government to send Philosophers, and especially Naturalists, to foreign countries, for the purpose of making scientific discoveries ; and in all cases, one part of their instructions is to note down such observations on the Agriculture of the regions through which they may pass, as they may apprehend will be useful to their fellow-citizens at home, and also to send to Paris the seeds of such plants and trees as may be cultivated to advantage either in France or her Colonies. An attention to these objects has already been of no inconsiderable benefit to the Nation. Europe is but poorly supplied with forest trees. France has but thirty species that attain the height of thirty feet, whilst within the limits of the United States, on the east side of the Mississippi, there are at least one hundred and forty species that reach that altitude. But the poverty of the French forests has been remedied, by drawing from those of North-America their most valuable trees. Various species of the Oak, Hickory, Maple, Locust, Poplar, Gum, Birch and Ash, indigenous to America, are to be met with in various parts of Europe, where they are regarded as desirable ornaments of their pleasure-grounds, and are becoming valuable constituents of their forests. A question very naturally